

Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following as the first paragraph beneath the title on page one:

This application claims benefit of U. S. Provisional Application No. 60/407,063, which was filed on August 20, 2002.

A copy of the Abstract is provided herein on the following separate sheet.

Abstract

The invention describes assays for the identification of compounds useful for the modulation of angiogenesis. The methods of the invention involve cell-free and cell-based assays that identify compounds which bind to and/or activate or inhibit the activity of HB-954, a G protein-coupled receptor, optionally followed by an in vivo assay of the effect of the compound on angiogenesis. The invention also describes compounds which bind to and/or activate or inhibit the activity of HB-954 as well as pharmaceutical compositions comprising such compounds.

In addition, the invention includes nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding all or a portion of HB-954, gene therapy vectors comprising such sequences, polypeptides comprising all or a portion of HB-954 and antibodies directed against HB-954.